* Frequent review meetings are conducted with the concerned State Governments and implementing agencies.

Setting up of power plants in Chhattisgarh

†2517. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals sent by Government of Chhattisgarh to the Ministry for approval and assistance to establish new power generation units;

(b) the date since when each proposal is pending;

(c) the details of the proposals which have been approved in years 2004-05 and 2005-06; and

(d) the details of the progress made regarding approval and assistance to pending proposals?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (d) As per Electricity Act, 2003 the requirement of according techno economic clearance by Central Electricity Authority has been dispensed with the thermal generation. No proposal has been received for setting up of any hydro power generation station in Chhattisgarh for concurrence of Central Electricity Authority.

Assistance to States providing free power to farmers

2518. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Central Government assistance is given to the States which offer free power supply to the farmers:

(b) if so, how much is the amount granted to each State; and

(c) the subsidies or incentives given by the Central Government to match the free electricity given to the farmers by States?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no such scheme. Tariff Policy notified by the Central Government under the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003 states that provision of free electricity is not desirable as it encourages wasteful consumption of electricity besides, in most cases, lowering of water table in turn creating avoidable problem of water shortage for irrigation and drinking water.

Hydro electric potential in NER

2519. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that North Eastern Region with 38 per cent of the country's total hydro potential still suffers from grave power shortage with per capita power consumption of merely 90 KWH against all India per capita of 280 KWH and world average of 2000 KWH;

(b) if so, the details and cost of the hydro-electric projects under implementation and those under consideration for augmentation of hydro-power potential in the North Eastern Region; and

(c) the stage of implementation and approval of different projects?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) The North-Eastern Region has an estimated hydro potential of 31,857 MW at 60% load factor which is about 38% of the total assessed hydro potential in the country. North Eastern Region was having peak shortage of 18.1% and energy shortage of 8.1 during the month of July, 2006. The per capita consumption of electricity of North-Eastern Region during the year 2004-05 was 218.92 KWh against the All India per capita consumption of 612.5 KWh and the world average per capita consumption of 2,429 KWh during 2003.

(b) and (c) The details of hydro projects under implementation in North-Eastern Region along with their cost are given at Statement (*See* below). Central Electricity Authority has prepared a shelf of four schemes